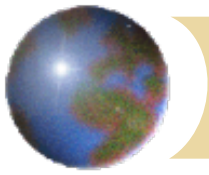


Alexander the Great



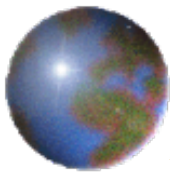
Ruler of the World



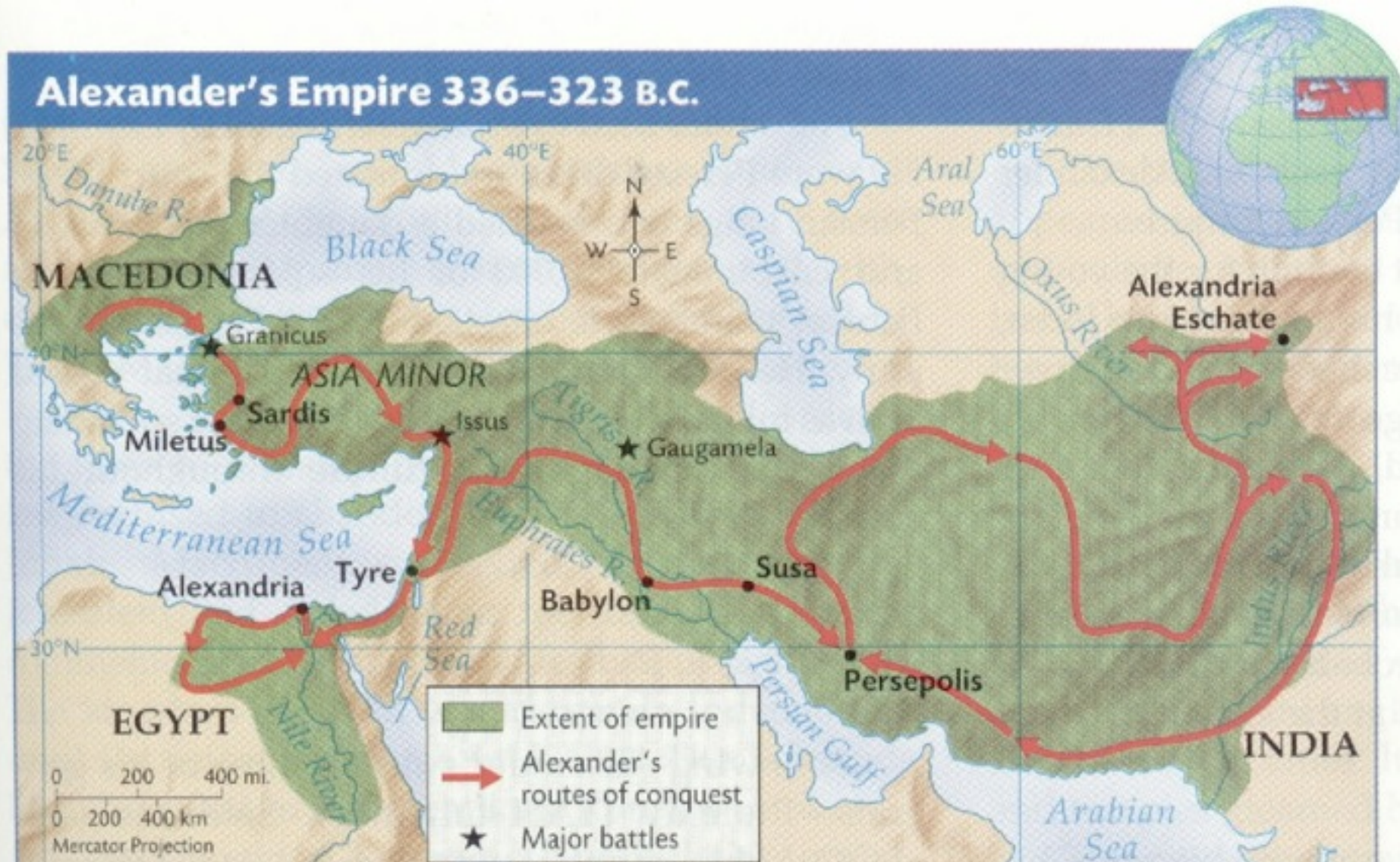
Why “the Great”?

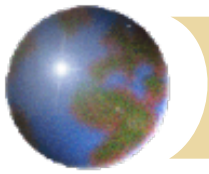
- ✚ In 12 years, Alexander of Macedonia created the largest empire in the world up to that time
- ✚ Alexander spread Greek culture, ensuring cultural diffusion and the survival of the qualities of classical Greece





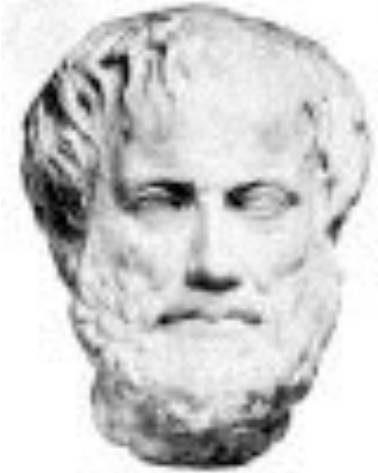
Alexander's Empire



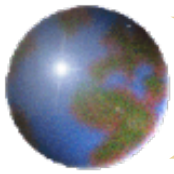


Alexander's origins

- ✚ Born in Macedonia
- ✚ Tutored by the Greek philosopher, Aristotle



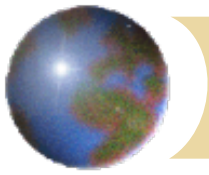
- ✚ His father, Philip, was king of Macedonia, and had conquered many Greek city states during his 27 year reign



Olympia
Alexander's mother



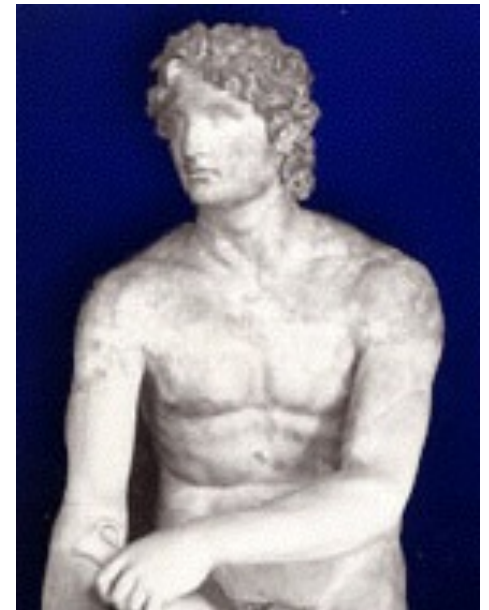
Philip
Alexander's father

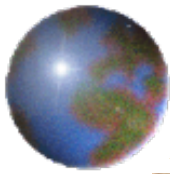


Alexander Rules

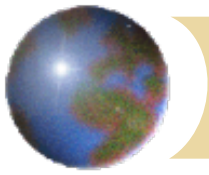
✚ Philip was murdered in 336 B.C. by an assassin...maybe hired by his wife, Olympia...

✚ Alexander only 20 when he became king of Macedonia





Pompeii mosaic - link to [Khan Academy analysis of mosaic](#)

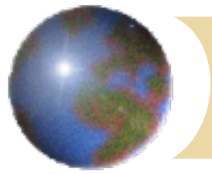


Expanding the Empire



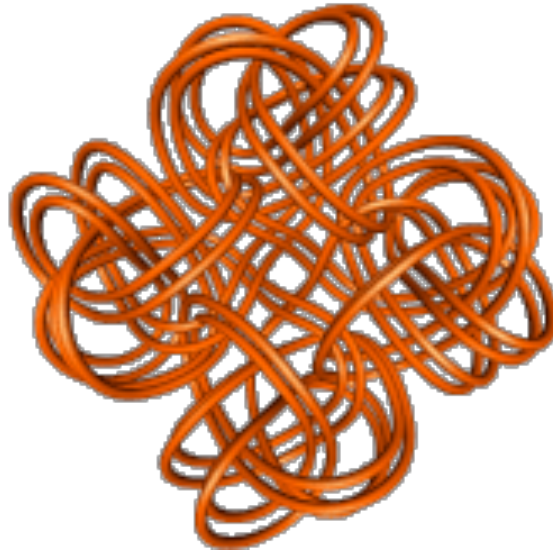
✚ Alexander's forces of over 40,000 crossed at the Dardanelles into Asia, where he declared that the whole of Asia would be won by the spear



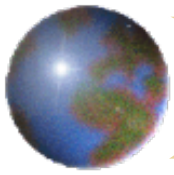


The Gordian Knot

- ✚ The Gordian Knot: the legend behind the ancient knot was that the man who could untie it was destined to rule the entire world.



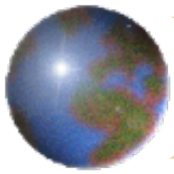
- ✚ Alexander simply slashed the knot with his sword and unraveled it.



Defeating Darius of Persia

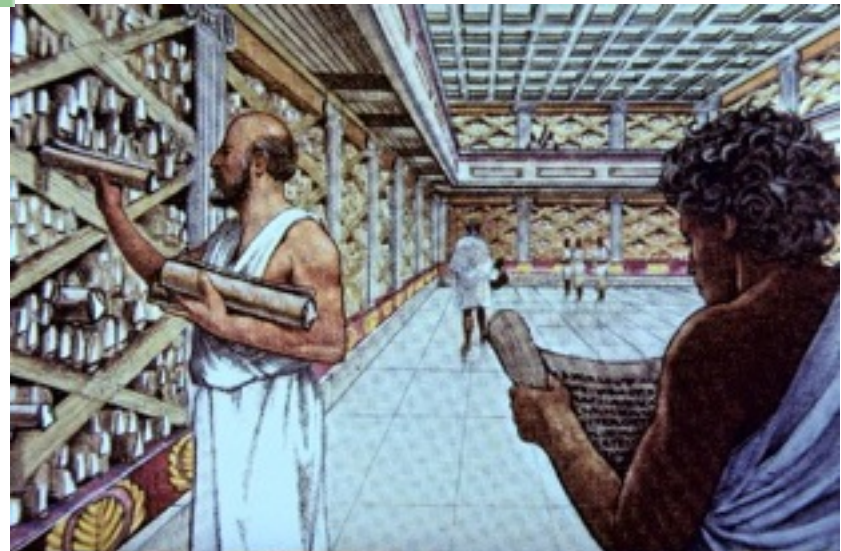


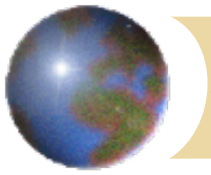
- ✚ Alexander's forces dispatched the Persian army, losing only 110 men (legend)



Major cities in Asia Minor and along the Phoenician coast surrendered to Alexander

Alexander proceeded to Egypt, where he established the city of Alexandria; established great library

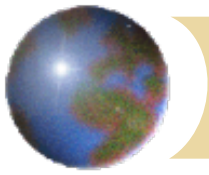




Alexander's divinity

- ✚ While in Egypt, Alexander had visited the temple of Amon-Ra
- ✚ Egyptians believed Alexander was the divine son of Amon-Ra and destined to rule the world

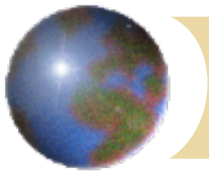




✚ Yet again, Alexander's forces defeated Darius, this time in Mesopotamia...

Alexander was proclaimed king of Persia and Darius's royal city and palace were burned to the ground...

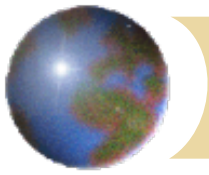




The limits of expansion

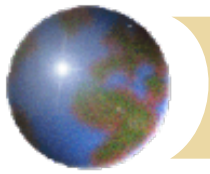
- ✚ In the spring of 327 BC, Alexander and his army marched into India
- ✚ As he conquered regions he allowed rulers to continue to govern in his name





Securing a legacy

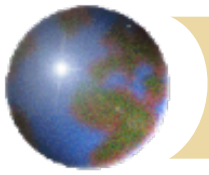
- ✚ Alexander made Babylonia the capital of his Empire
- ✚ He married one of Darius' daughters and “encouraged” 10,000 of his soldiers to take Persian wives



Retreat

- ✚ At the Indus, his exhausted soldiers rebelled and refused to go any farther
- ✚ The forces travelled down the Indus and began the arduous journey back to Mesopotamia
- ✚ Alexander's best friend died of a fever; to console himself, Alexander led a ferocious military campaign and went on a drinking binge





The mystery of Alexander's death

- ✚ Alexander died of a fever at 33... but why?
- ✚ Some claimed Alexander was poisoned during the drinking binge
- ✚ He died before he could produce an heir and his kingdom was divided among **5 of his generals**

